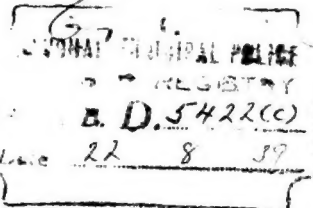


A. 38/1

22 AUG 1939

POLICE FORCE

TELEGRAPH OFFICE FOR CABLEGRAMS
Ministry of Communications.



Cablegram Received Via Eastern at 10.25 - August 21, 1939.

XXK 24 HONGKONG 29 21 1020 BG ETAT =

SECRETARY MUNICIPAL COUNCIL SHAI =

YOUR TELEGRAM 17TH AUGUST STOP NO HONGKONG REGULATIONS
PREVENTING EUROPEAN REFUGEES TRANSHIPPING PROVIDED THEY
HAVE VISAS WHOLE QUESTION BEING RECONSIDERED LETTER
WILL FOLLOW =

COLONIAL SECRETARY



R. G. 1/ 23/ 5

22 AUG 1939

POLICE FORCE

6.2.

LC COLONIAL SECRETARY
HONGKONG

SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL COUNCIL PROHIBITING FURTHER
IMMIGRATION EUROPEAN REFUGEES ARE THERE ANY
HONGKONG REGULATIONS WHICH PREVENT REFUGEES
TRANSHIPPING AT HONGKONG FOR SHANGHAI OR MUST
COASTAL BOATS HERE BE WATCHED

PHILLIPS SECRETARY COUNCIL

E. T. Nash,
for Secretary, S.M.C. 17/8/39.

"I. C."
HANGHAI
190 KIUKIANG ROAD
TELEPHONE 18637
TELEGR. ADR.: "KOMOR"

SHANGHAI, August 29th, 1939

To the Commissioner of Police
S.M.P.
Shanghai

Dear Sir:-

Mr. YORKE was good enough to inform me over the 'phone today, that the matter of Documents of Identification, which I had submitted to you on the 25th inst. had been taken under advisement and that a decision would be given in about two weeks.

In this connection I would like to add to what I have already said that the German Consulate General has requested us to deliver to them all "Statenlose" Passports, issued by the German Government, which had expired and lost their validity.

There are quite a number of such Passports now expired, but we have the greatest possible difficulties in getting their owners surrender these to us, because, as I have stated in my previous letter, they would be left without any kind of a Document.

Were it possible to replace these Passports with our Document of Identity and were it possible to make these Documents serve the same purpose as a "Staatenlose" Passport or a Nansen Passport serves, the difficulties we are meeting with now would be, I hope, eliminated and, at the same time, a useful service performed for the people concerned.

Yours faithfully,



"I.C." RELIEF FUND

David A. ...
Secretary & Treasurer



MEMO.

OFFICE OF D. C. CRIME

ac (S.B.) Date 29.8.39

Commons instructed
endorsements be suspended
until his return from
leave when he hoped
to have some ruling
from the Council

J. H. Robertson

Deputy Commissioner
(Crime Branch)

File. I have informed
Mr. Brown that a decision
may be made in about
two weeks. No further details
to be disclosed. R.D.J. 29/8.

I understand
from D.V. Crawford that
S. M. Police will not
now stamp or endorse
identification certificates.
Will you please advise?

R.D.J.
D.C. Special Branch.
29/8.

"I. C."
SHANGHAI
190 KIUKIANG ROAD
TELEPHONE 18637
TELEGR.-ADR.: "KOMOR"

Acknowledged, form *E*
Central Reg. 27 / 8 / 1939

SHANGHAI, 25th August 1939

To the Commissioner of Police
S.M.P.
Shanghai.

Dear Sir,

You will probably recall that the Council some time ago invited me to join a Study Commission dealing with Emigrant problems.

Mr. F.A.Pitts was, on behalf of the Police a member of this Commission and, at one of the meetings, the question of "Staatenlose" persons was brought up and a discussion arose as to what was best to be done with these people who, on the expiry of their Passports would have no such document because renewal was declined by the German Consulate.

Seeing that there is also no Nansen office here, I suggested that this Committee issue booklets of identification. Mr. Pitts had discussed the matter with some of the Consulates who said, that if the Police stamped the booklets, visas, if practicable, would be issued to other countries.

On the strength of this and also because the absolute necessity arose I had booklets printed of which I enclose a specimen.

I might add that, in a recent interview, the German Consul Mr. E.v.Randow suggested that we should do something in order to provide identification documents to those without a country and I was in a position to tell him, that we had already taken suitable steps in this direction.

The other day, it being necessary to have a Document such as this one stamped, the owner had some difficulty in getting such a stamp. I rang up Mr. Pitts who told me, to the best of my recollection, that the matter of stamping was alright only that it had not yet been decided as to what fee would be charged for the services in this connection.

However, in conversation with Mr. Wittingsky this afternoon I was given to understand that instructions had been given, not to stamp these documents at all.

That would be contrary to arrangement which, to the best of my knowledge and belief, had been arrived at and which was a suitable solution of a very difficult



SHANGHAI, 25th August, 1939

problem.

Personally, I see no reason why such endorsement by the Police should not be given seeing that the authorities and Consulates accept our and only our endorsement in other matters concerning Emigrants.

The matter of a Document of Identification is an urgent one to such persons who, for one reason or another have lost their citizenship. Without such a document some of these people feel absolutely lost. It robs them of some form of security which they, with a Passport or a substitute for the same, feel.

At the same time, such a Document offers, as I have indicated, a possibility for them to go to other countries f.i. to Tientsin, Tsingtau etc. and it is urgently necessary that people should have every opportunity to leave Shanghai, if such opportunity offers itself.

Mr. Freund, whose Document I attach, wishes to leave for Tsingtau or Tientsin and with the Police stamping the Passport, he can get a Japanese permit on the basis of permit obtained by us through our corresponding Committees in the northern Ports.

I trust therefore, that the arrangement which had been, as I believe, arrived at, will not be now cancelled and I request that you be so good as to give the necessary instructions to your sub-organs for the endorsements to be accorded when called for.

I beg to remain,

Dear Sir,

Yours faithfully,

"I. C." DEPT. FUND

Paul Komor

Encl.

18th Aug 1939 237

Dear Mr. Witthisky,

I will appreciate it if
you will please countersign
'I. C.' Passport No 003/39
in the name of

Mr. Jakob Wibeze
as has been done in previous
cases by Mr. Little.
Thank you.

Sincerely

And R. R. R.

S. Ishiguro, Esq.,
Consul for Japan,
Shanghai.

Dear Mr. Ishiguro,

Re: Immigration

From the "8-Uhr Abendblatt", an emigrant evening paper, of April 23, I learn that 1,000 immigration permits for Hongkew residence are about to be issued. The issue of 20th April of the same paper contains a notice, telling applicants when to apply (according to the alphabet) to the Japanese Consulate General for delivery of the landing permits already referred to. All these applications were submitted without the intermediary of our Committee, so that the latter was not enabled to investigate the bona fides of the applicants; nor could we examine the prospects of the new arrivals to make a living in Shanghai.

While welcoming the idea to help people to get out from Central Europe and enable them to start life afresh in a new land, we feel apprehensive as to the ability of the newcomers to stand on their own feet. Since November last year, when immigration was again permitted under certain restrictions, our Committee has carefully examined the statements made in writing by applicants and has invariably passed on such requests only, which contained a fair chance that the newcomers will not become a burden to either our Committee, or to the Shanghai community at large.

Recently the Electioneering Association, consisting of refugees, a body without juridical standing, has inaugurated a campaign for the issue of immigration permits. We have no desire whatsoever to either criticize, nor to interfere in any way with the decisions of your Consulate General in this respect. On the contrary, we really remain thankful for the great kindness you have displayed towards the unfortunate masses of citizens who are forced to abandon their homes. But on the other hand, I feel dutybound to place on record that:

(a) our Committee cannot accept responsibility for the bona fides of both the applicants and the immigrants, as long as the applications have not been passing through our hands for examination of the statements contained therein.

(b) that, in the event of emigrants arriving here without means - especially if this happens in large numbers - our Committee will most likely be unable to take them to the Homes and maintain them there for a lengthy period of time.

Bringing to your notice for your kind consideration the contents of this last paragraph is really the main purpose of this letter. The means at our disposal are dwindling as time goes on and I fear that we should not be able to cope with the requirements of a large mass of people landing here without means and being unable to care for their own support.

This does not mean that our Committee does not want to see an increase in the size of the refugee population here. As a matter of fact, we at all times welcome the growth of the migrants colony in China and shall gladly place our advice and assistance at its disposal. But what circumstances demand is that newcomers ought to be able to stand on their own feet and not be dependent upon the very slender monetary resources of our committee.

I thought it advisable to bring to your kind notice these actualities and desire to thank you once more for the very helpful consideration which you hitherto have been good enough to devote to a really worthy cause.

Believe me, dear Mr. Ishiguro,

Very sincerely yours,
Ed: E. Kanno.